



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

July 9, 2024

Summer Workshop Information and Registration

Register **HERE!**

Summer Workshops 2024 will be held in

Springfield, Missouri, July 29 – July 31

(Please note the date change - we originally published the dates as July 30 - August 1)

- **July 29** – **ALL Food Service Directors** - Directors that have **more** than 3 years' experience as a school food service director are invited to attend this day.
- **July 30** – **NEW Food Service Directors** – Directors with **less** than 3 years' experience as a school food service director are invited to attend this day.
- **July 31** – **Cooks and Kitchen Staff** - Hands on skills training that incorporates knife skills, recipe basics and cooking with local and USDA Foods.

Important Information

- *This is the only location for summer workshops*
- *Registration is free, but you still need to register for the day(s) that you wish to attend*
- *No on-site registrations will be allowed*
- *Some sessions offered during this workshop will be recorded*
- *Breakfast and lunch are provided all three days*
- **Registration** is handled through MU Conference. Please contact **muconf4@missouri.edu** to answer questions that may come up concerning registration

Southwest Missouri Local Food Bus Tour

Tuesday, July 30
7:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Springfield, Missouri

Itinerary

- Central Botanical Society Tour
- Greater Springfield Farmers Market Tour
- Turtle Gulch Gardens Tour & Lunch
- Blue Silo Beef, Pork & Chicken Tour
- Return to Central Botanical Society

There is no cost to attend, but space is limited so please only register those who will attend.

Lunch will be provided.

Dress for the weather, we will be visiting working farms.

There will be a restroom available on the bus.

Register here: bit.ly/SWMOBusTour



Funded by USDA Farm to School Grant



Equipment Grant FY 2024 Funding Opportunity



FY 2024 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Information

- **Equipment Grant Ineligible List**
- **Equipment Grant Letter**
- **Equipment Grant Application**

Equipment Grant **Application deadline is 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 12, 2024.**

Missouri's FY24 State Funding Allocation is \$191,792. We will use the Competitive Application Process this year once all eligible applications have been received. *(Applications will NOT be awarded based off of Free and Reduced Percentage.)*

All LEAs may apply unless a building is on the **Ineligible list** and has received prior funding. Review the **Equipment Grant Letter** for Selection Criteria Factors and other important information to help you complete the application. **Grant application** must be completed in its entirety. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. All applications must be signed and submitted by the due date. **There will be no exceptions.**

Missouri SuN Bucks (Summer EBT)

Summer Food Assistance

Missouri is currently waiting on federal approval for a new program named 'Missouri SuN Bucks' designed to help families buy food for their school-aged children this summer. Eligible families would receive a one-time \$120 benefit per qualifying child on an EBT card to buy food from authorized locations.

What can I do now?

To get ready for Missouri SuN Bucks you can:

- If your family gets SNAP or TA, update your address online at mydss.mo.gov by selecting "Report a Change"
- Subscribe to get important email alerts about the program!





SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE



tinyurl.com/MOSuNBucks

[Helping Families Access Food During the Summer](#)

The Missouri SuNBucks Program is a new program to help families purchase food for their school-age children during the summer months of June, July, and August. Families of students who were determined eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL) during the regular school year will receive a one-time \$120 benefit per eligible student. The funds will be loaded onto an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card and mailed to the household address or loaded onto a SNAP household member's card. These funds can be used to purchase food at authorized locations. Students eligible to receive SuNBucks can also participate in other summer meal programs.

Summer EBT benefits are issued to students based on their FRL eligibility status at the end of the school year immediately preceding the summer. Eligible students must have been enrolled in school on the last day of the regular school year to receive this benefit.

Students that were determined eligible for FRL at some point during the 2023-2024 school year are considered "Streamlined Certified", meaning the student's household does not need to apply for summer 2024 EBT; they will automatically receive the benefit for summer 2024. Streamlined Certified students include:

- Students determined FRL eligible through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)/School Breakfast Program (SBP) application
- Students Directly Certified through SNAP or TANF using the Direct Certification Download (Direct Match)
- Students in foster care
- Students in a homeless, migrant, or runaway status

SuN Bucks Resources

- **Missouri SuN Bucks Letter to Schools**
- **Recorded Summer EBT Student Data Collection Instructions**
 - **PDF - Summer EBT Student Data Collection PDF Instructions**
- **Free or Reduced-Price Eligible-Summer EBT Student Data Collection Spreadsheet**

You can also visit **Missouri SUN Bucks | mydss.mo.gov** for additional information, FAQs and to sign-up for updates.

Important School Nutrition Requirements and Resources

Let's Talk Recordings

On the **[Trainings page](#)** of the DESE, FNS website you can find our past Let's Talk recordings. Below is the most recent recording. Upcoming webinars will be announced in the Newsletter.

- **June 12 - Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool, Adult Meal Pricing, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable (FFVP) Packet** (*recording*)
 - **Presentation Slides**

Free and Reduced Price Application and Direct Certification Information and Procedures 2024-25 Handbook

The Free and Reduced Price Application and Direct Certification Information and Procedures 2024-25 is now available on the **DESE Food and Nutrition Services** website

under **Free and Reduced Price Information** and **Handbooks**. Please refer to the **Frequently asked Questions** document pertaining to the Free and Reduced Application process. If you have any questions please call Food and Nutrition Services at 573-751-8673.

Flavored milk can remain on school lunch menus

The USDA will allow flavored milk like chocolate milk to remain part of the school lunch menu as long as it meets the new reduced sugar regulations, which take effect in fall 2025. Originally, the USDA had opposed flavored milk, but the department agreed to allow the beverage after securing assurances from milk manufacturers that the flavored milk offered would meet the new sugar limitations.

National CACFP Sponsors Association Webpage

Visit **CACFP.org** for tools and resources on creditable foods, recipes, menus, education and more!

Update to MyPlate

Did you know that MyPlate replaced the Food Guide Pyramid in 2011? MyPlate can be customized to fit your dietary needs, preferences, cultural traditions, and budget — so you can enjoy your favorite recipes *and* eat the healthy foods you love. Want to learn more about MyPlate and how it can help you enjoy healthier eating? Watch this **short video** or head over to our new MyPlate **campaign hub**. Enjoy healthier eating. Update to MyPlate.



Reminders and Important Information

Supply Chain Assistance Funding for Schools

Round 4 funds have been processed for LEAs that originally completed the Round 2/3 attestation and for schools that contract with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) if the required questionnaire/attestation was submitted prior to the May 17th deadline. Reallocation of the remaining Round 4 funds were processed in June.

Turnip the Beet 2024 Nomination Packet

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is pleased to share the availability of the **Turnip the Beet 2024 Nomination Packet**. The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. Please consider promoting the opportunity to apply for a Turnip the Beet award. More information can be found on the **Turnip the Beet webpage**.

The **Local Food for Schools (LFS)** grant is still open. The application is an easy 3 step process to apply.

1. Watch the **training video**
2. Then complete the **application survey**
3. Finally submit a **written plan** explaining how you plan to use the funds to purchase local foods for school meals



USDA Foods Update

Fair Share Bonus Fresh Apples – 110151 Various Varieties, 37-40# case, 125 servings
While some of you selected bonus apples on your 24/25 USDA Foods Packet, many more of you missed this opportunity. To provide free fresh apples to all our districts, we have elected to provide each with a **“Fair Share”** based on your *“total lunches served in 2023-24 SY”* and your district enrollment.

These cases will automatically be included on your **September Gold Star warehouse delivery**, which is just in time for you to use on your fall menus, to celebrate Johnny Appleseed’s Birthday on September 26th, or to save for Missouri’s October Crunch Off. There’s nothing you need to do but menu and enjoy them. Each district should have gotten an email detailing the amount of fair share apples they will receive. If you haven’t received a letter, please contact us at donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov.

Value Letters

The SY 2023-24 Value Letter will be posted on our DESE website within the next couple of weeks. This letter will tell you the value of all USDA Foods that were delivered to your district during this past school year. An email will be sent to your authorized representative when the letter is published.

Net Off Invoice Reminders

As of July 1, all unused 23/24 entitlement pounds were swept out of school’s accounts. Your NOI banks for the upcoming school year should be loaded soon, so please check Processor Link and K12 to make sure that you receive the pounds you requested. Please also take a few moments to make sure that your commercial distributor is listed correctly in Processor Link and K12. Making sure that your distributor is listed correctly will help ensure that you can start placing orders and drawing down your entitlement pounds as soon your banks are loaded.

Reminder about ANC

If your district is attending the SNA Annual National Conference in Boston this July 14th – 17th, we invite you to attend several sessions focused on USDA Foods. On July 14th, these sessions include Apples to Zucchini: Basics of USDA DoD Fresh in Room 104-ABC (10:30-11:30 a.m.) & USDA Foods 201 in Room 157-ABC (1:00-2:30 p.m.).

Additionally, USDA is interested in getting stakeholder feedback on the commodity foods program and how we can better serve your needs. They are holding a [Listening Session](#) on Tuesday July 16, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. in Room 150.

Please join them and provide any feedback you may have.

USDA will also be on the exhibit floor. They will be on [USDA Lane](#), [USDA Foods booth 1505](#) and would love to have you stop and say hello.

Donated Foods Summer Workshop Sessions

Our USDA Foods Team is looking forward to seeing you during our annual Summer Workshops. Throughout the workshops, we will be discussing the basics of the USDA Foods Program, as well as some ways that you can best utilize your entitlement. More information on dates and location will be sent out soon!

Black Bean (100359) Update

One of our lots of black beans was withheld from distribution this spring so that they could undergo a quality inspection. In the inspected cans, there was a layer of beans at the top with very little liquid, but plenty of liquid underneath. These beans have now been approved for distribution, and if your district requested black beans on your USDA Foods packet during the 23/24 SY and did not receive them, they will be **included on your first Gold Star delivery of the 2024-25 SY**. For best results, we recommend making sure the beans are well mixed to redistribute their liquid before recipe preparation or heating.

August Deliveries

The beginning of school is right around the corner, and the same is true of your first 2024-25 SY USDA Foods delivery. Please remember to schedule your August delivery for your Direct Delivery and Fee For Service items by the Tuesday prior to your delivery week so that you can receive your products in a timely manner!

Product Substitutions

So far, most direct delivery orders are on track for this school year. We will, however, have some product substitutions take place beginning in December. If your district requested Reduced Fat Sliced American Cheese (100036) in December, you will be receiving Sliced American Cheese (100018) in its place. If you have any questions or concerns about this substitution, please reach out to our team.

DOD Updates

To ensure a smooth transition back to school this fall, please make sure that your district's contact information is up to date in FFAVORS. If any changes need to be made, please send those to donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov.

Each district's account has been loaded with their allocated funds for the 2024-25 SY. This means that you should be able to place orders as soon as you get back to school in August!

Bonus Direct Delivery for 24/25 SY

We will again be offering Bonus Direct Delivery (brown box) items that you may select and add to your Gold Star orders monthly. Our first bonus offering will be posted the week of July 22 for delivery with your first Gold Star order in August.

To request bonus items, log in on the [Gold Star website](#). On the left panel, click on Advertisements under the USDA Direct Delivery Header. Then request the items you would

like. Bonus items, once approved, will be added to your Live Inventory and automatically shipped to your district on your next Gold Star delivery.

More information and instructions on this advertisement feature can be found on the USDA Foods website under Gold Star Training Videos – Advertisements
<https://youtu.be/FcpbOTckHAQ>.

Past Newsletters

Missed a past newsletter or need to access them again? You can find them all on our [Food and Nutrition Services Newsletter page!](#)



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